

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01345 270714Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01 /023 W
-----048747 280040Z /75

R 260925Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4694
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 1345

USIAC

CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. ATMOSPHERICS: MAJOR FOREIGN NEWS EVENT THIS WEEK WAS COSMOS SATELLITE BURN-UP OVER CANADA, CURRENTLY RECEIVING HEAVY MEDIA ATTENTION. UNDER HEADLINES CLAIMING INCIDENT HAS GENERATED REAL "ALARM" AND "FEARS" HERE, TREATMENT REVEALS GENERAL UNAWARENESS HERETOFORE THAT SOME ORBITTING SATELLITES ARE NUCLEAR POWERED. REACTION SUGGESTS THAT DEMILITARIZATION OF SPACE AND STIFFER SAFETY STANDARDS FOR SPACE VEHICLES WILL BE STRESSED IN JAPANESE APPEALS AND CAMPAIGNS DURING THIS SPRING'S UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. NEWS OF COSMOS BURN-UP HIT PRESS JUST AFTER GOJ RELEASED FINAL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION INTO LAST FALL'S USN JET CRASH IN YOKOHAMA, AND MAY HAVE SERVED TO REDUCE SPACE THAT MEDIA WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE GIVEN THIS REPORT. COMMENT ON NAVY CRASH SHOWS GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH SPELL-OUT OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO BE INSTITUTED, BUT EVEN MORE UNHAPPINESS THAT INVESTIGATION DID NOT ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR CRASH TO SPECIFIC UNIT OR INDIVIDUALS. THIS UNDERSCORES TRADITIONAL JAPANESE PRACTICE OF REQUIRING HIGHER-UPS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 01345 270714Z

FOR INCIDENT EVEN WHEN THEY COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN OF SPECIFIC CONDITIONS THAT CAUSED IT. POSSIBILITY REMAINS OF THIS JET-CRASH CASE FOCUSING MORE ATTENTION ON U.S. BASE QUESTION. MEDIA COMMENT ON SERIES OF ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES SPLIT BETWEEN (1) CLAIMING MESSAGES SHOW U.S. IS TURNING INWARD AND DOWN-PLAYING ITS WORLD LEADERSHIP ROLE AND (2) PRAISING REPORTS AS SHOWING THAT PRESIDENT IS "VERY REALISTIC" AND MORE CONFIDENT.

COMMENTATORS SEEMED AT LOSS FOR BOTTOM-LINE SUMMATIONS YFD
APPEARED TO BE CRIBBING FROM EACH OTHER.

2. PROGRAM

A. TOKYO AC HELD HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM, "U.S. AND NE
ASIA: ISSUES FOR 1980'S," FEATURING UNIV. OF CALIF. SINOLOGIST
BRUCE LARKIN AND TOKYO UNIV. SINOLOGIST SHINKICHI ETO AS CO-
SPEAKERS WITH AUDIENCE OF 116 INCLUDING SOME OF JAPAN'S
FOREMOST SINOLOGISTS, SOVIETOLOGISTS AND INTERNATIONAL RELA-
TIONS SPECIALISTS. PARKIN GAVE WELL-DOCUMENTED SCHOLARLY
PRESENTATION WITH PERSUASIVE PROJECTIONS OF MAJOR-POWER
DEVELOPMENTS AND POLICIES IN AREA OVER NEXT DECADE. ETO
SUPPLEMENTED THIS WITH EXPERT ESTIMATES OF FUTURE OF MAJOR
POWER RELATIONSHIPS IN REGION. ETO REJECTED IDEA THAT USFK
WITHDRAWAL RISKS RECREATING KIND OF INSTABILITY IN KOREA THAT
PERMITTED WAR'S OUTBREAK IN 1950. SAID ROK WEAKNESS IS IN
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS RATHER THAN IN ITS MILITARY POSTURE. INFORMED
LEVEL OF Q AND A SESSION SHOWED AUDIENCE WAS WELL MATCHED
WITH SPEAKERS' TALENT.

3. FURTHER MEDIA SPINOFF FROM SEN. KENNEDY VISIT SHOWED UP THIS
WEEK. TBS-TV NETWORK CARRIED LONG INTERVIEW, FILMED ABOARD
"BULLET" TRAIN, IN WHICH KENNEDY DISCUSSED US-PRC AND US-JAPAN
RELATIONS, MADE OBSERVATIONS FROM HIS RECENT PRC VISIT AND TALKED
ABOUT HIS FAMILY. WEEKLY "ASAHI JOURNAL" OF 1/27 CARRIES 2-PAGE
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 01345 270714Z

USIS-ARRANGED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH KENNEDY (DONE ON HIROSHIMA-
TOKYO FLIGHT) COVERING SIMILAR SUBJECT MATTER, BUT WITH MORE
EMPHASIS ON THE NONPROLIFERATION PROPOSALS HE MADE IN HIROSHIMA
SPEECH.

4. THREE BIGGEST DAILIES PLUS "NIHON KEIZAI" CARRIED FULL TRANS-
LATIONS OF PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE. TEXT WAS TRANSLATED AND
SUPPLIED BY KYODO NEWS BUT CARRIED USIS ATTRIBUTION AS KYODO HAD
TAKEN IT FROM AGENCY'S WIRELESS FILE SIGNAL.

5. BPAO CONFERENCE MENTIONED LAST WEEK ENDED WITH GOOD CONSENSUS
ON REDEFINITIONS OF USIS AUDIENCES WHICH WILL INCREASE EMPHASIS ON
EXTENDING USIS REACH WITHIN JAPAN, ON DEVELOPING

CONTACTS WITH FUTURE LEADERS AND ON CLOSER INVOLVEMENT WITH
JAPANESE INSTITUTIONS.
FORSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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